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ABSTRACT

This publication sets out the allocation of funding for the widening participation special funding program in England for 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. The program is part of an effort to improve access to and participation in higher education for under-represented groups. Higher education institutions funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England were invited to submit proposals for funds. In each of the nine regions, funds were distributed according to need, with need measured by the number of young people from poor neighborhoods who do not enter higher education. The program allocated funds to support 71 projects. Attachments (annexes) contain: (1) a description of the distribution of funds by region; (2) a description of the advisory panel for the project; and (3) brief descriptions of the funded projects. (SLD)

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ED 448 655

August 00/35
Report

Widening participation: special funding programme

1999-2000 to 2001-02

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Widening participation: special funding programme 1999-2000 to 2001-02

To	Heads of HEFCE-funded higher education institutions Heads of HEFCE-funded further education colleges Heads of non-HEFCE funded further education colleges in the FE sector Heads of universities in Northern Ireland
Of interest to those responsible for	Strategic planning, recruitment and participation, access work, academic planning, learning and teaching, funding and finance
Reference	00/**35**
Publication date	August 2000
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Executive summary

Purpose

1. This publication sets out the allocation of funding for the widening participation special funding programme for 1999-2000 to 2001-02. It describes the aims of the funded projects, and gives contact details for further information.

Key points

2. As part of a wider programme to improve access and participation to higher education for under-represented groups, we allocated £5 million to a regionally based programme with a commitment to continue the programme in 2000-01 and 2001-02. We contributed a further £2 million per annum for three years to a joint special funding programme, to which the Further Education Funding Council (FEFC) have also contributed £2 million, initially for one year.

3. HEFCE 99/33 invited HEFCE-funded higher education institutions to submit proposals for funds in their region. The FEFC also issued a circular (FEFC publication 99/29), which described the joint initiative and called for proposals for funding from further education colleges.

Action required

4. No action is required.

Background

5. In 1998 the HEFCE agreed to establish a special funding initiative to widen participation (see HEFCE 98/27). £1.5 million was provided during 1998-99. The funds were to be allocated regionally, primarily to enable partnerships to be established and need identified. HEFCE 99/07 describes the 25 partnerships funded in this stage of the initiative.

6. We made clear at the time that this was the first stage of a longer-term initiative and was part of a wider programme to improve access and participation to higher education for under-represented groups. The programme includes: special premiums in the mainstream funding method for mature students, part-time students and young students from under-represented groups; a special initiative to support institutions in recruiting and retaining students with disabilities; and this special initiative to improve the participation of other under-represented groups. HEFCE 99/24 describes the overall policy.

7. In January 1999, we allocated a total of £7.5 million in 1999-2000 to a special funding programme to widen participation. This included a further £5 million regionally based programme, with a commitment to continue the programme in 2000-01 and 2001-02. We also decided to contribute a further £2 million per annum for three years to a joint special funding programme with the FEFC. The FEFC has contributed £2 million, initially for one year. We publicised the initiatives in HEFCE 99/33 and in regional seminars held in May 1999 for higher education institutions (HEIs) and further education colleges (FECs). The seminars discussed regional priorities to be addressed by the programme. We encouraged institutions to work in partnership and to present single integrated applications to both funds, where possible.

8. The funds for the nine regions were distributed according to need. As in 1998-99, we measured need by the number of young people from poor neighbourhoods in each region who do not enter higher education. The initiative was aimed at all age groups and not only young people. The distribution of the funds by region is shown in Annex A.

9. The FEFC also issued a circular (FEFC publication 99/29), which described the joint initiative and called for proposals for funding from FECs.

10. In HEFCE 99/33, we also requested HEIs to provide by 1 October 1999 an initial statement of their strategy for widening participation and to account for the special premium funding they are receiving for this. We asked institutions to make links to their initial strategic statements in their applications for special project funding.

Assessment of bids

11. In 1998, we established Regional Advisory Networks (RANs), consisting of representatives of regional organisations from both the HE and FE sectors and from government offices. These advised on the allocation of funds to the first stage of the initiative and re-convened for the second phase in 1999. In May, the RANs devised the regional priorities, which were then considered by the regional seminars. Each

region's priorities are listed in Annex C. In October, the applications for funding were considered by HEFCE officers and, in the case of the joint initiative, by FEFC officers, and then assessed by the RANs. We established a national advisory panel to give an overview of decisions by the RANs. The membership and terms of reference of the panel are given in Annex B.

12. The panel met in late October to consider reports from the RANs and to provide a national overview of the process. It examined the national criteria, the regional priorities, the detailed proposals for allocations from the RANs and the notes from their meetings. It also saw all successful bids and received a national summary overview report prepared by Council officers. The panel confirmed the proposed funding allocations. It was particularly pleased to note that:

a. Most bids were student-focused and concentrated on outcomes, not institutional processes.

b. Most bids contained quantified targets.

c. The co-operation between the FE and HE sectors appeared to be working well.

Outcomes

13. We are supporting a total of 71 projects. In Northern Ireland the Department of Higher & Further Education, Training and Employment (DHFETE) is supporting two projects. In the North East, South West and Yorkshire and the Humber regions the previous pattern of funding single partnerships covering the whole region will continue. In the other regions, partnerships have been established on a more sub-regional level. A summary of the regional priorities for each region and the aims of each funded project is given at Annex C.

Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund

14. We designed the joint fund to encourage the development of progression opportunities from FE to HE, and a condition of the funding is that the local Lifelong Learning Partnership endorsed the application. The joint fund has been established for one year only in the first instance, although the HEFCE has set aside funds for three years. We were encouraged by the high level of collaboration between the HE and FE sectors, as shown not only in the applications to the joint fund but also in many applications to the HEFCE fund.

Monitoring

15. In all cases work in the projects will be monitored by the HEFCE Regional Consultant, either as part of the steering group for a project or in conjunction with the RAN.

We have also appointed a co-ordination team, 'Action on Access', for which a key role will be to ensure good communication among the different projects, and to encourage the dissemination and embedding of good practice. 'Action on Access' will have a wide-ranging remit to offer support and advice to projects and activities conducted by individual universities and colleges and the sector as a whole. The five-strong team is led by Geoff Layer, Professor of Lifelong Learning and Continuing Education at the University of Bradford.

Annex A

Distribution of special initiative funds in 1999-2000, by region

Region	Strand	
	HEFCE programme to build partnerships and to disseminate and embed good practice January 1999-2000 to 2001-02 (£000s per year)[1]	Joint FEFC/HEFCE programme (£000s)[2]
North-East	571	457
North-West and Merseyside	962	770
Yorkshire and the Humber	719	575
East Midlands	398	319
West Midlands	712	569
South-West	315	252
Eastern	305	244
London	644	515
South-East	374	299
Total	**5,000**	**4,000**

1 HEFCE fund is for three years
2 Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund is initially for one year only

Annex B

HEFCE National Advisory Panel for the Widening Participation Special Funding Programme

Terms of reference

1. To advise the HEFCE Board and offer comments to the FEFC Chief Executive on the allocation of widening participation (WP) funds for 1999-2000 and indicative amounts for the following two years.

2. In determining the advice to be given to the Board, the National Advisory Panel will consider:

a. Whether the recommendations of each of the Regional Advisory Networks (RANs), concerning the funding of projects, fulfil the national criteria and the relevant regional priorities defined by each region.

b. At both the regional and national levels:

   i. The overall quality of the successful bids.

   ii. For the HEFCE special funding programme, the balance between developing partnership projects and disseminating and embedding good practice.

   iii. For the joint HEFCE/FEFC programme, the balance between HEI and FEC led projects.

c. For all the recommended projects within England as a whole:

   i. Whether the recommended projects collectively fulfil the purposes of Phase 2 of the WP special initiative:

   - to support existing and new partnerships
   - to disseminate and embed good practice
   - to encourage progression from FE to HE, through links between HEIs and Lifelong Learning Partnerships
   - and to encourage regional collaboration.

   ii. Whether any gaps are apparent in the overall provision.

3. To inform the RANs of the nature of, and the reasons for, the National Advisory Panel's advice and recommendations to the Board.

Membership

Bahram Bekhradnia	Director of Policy, HEFCE (Chair)
Anthony Booth	HEFCE Board member
Barbara Stephens	HEFCE Board member and member of EQUALL Committee
Professor Richard Taylor	Member of EQUALL Committee
Emily Thrane	FEFC Regional Director, member of EQUALL
John Selby	HEFCE Regional Consultant
Yvonne Perry	HEFCE Higher Education Adviser (secretary)

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Eastern region: regional priorities

General

- All bids must have a significant collaborative element involving HEIs and/or FECs.
- All bids must demonstrate how they will contribute to the development and implementation of a regional widening participation strategy.
- Existing partnerships based on HEI:HEI or HEI:FEC groupings will form the basis of all bids.

Bids should focus on one or more of the following broad areas.

Information and dissemination

- The development of a common regional data framework and region-wide data definitions.
- Development and maintenance of a regional database to support widening participation activities.
- Ongoing regional mapping of participation in HE and FE.
- Developing links between HE provision and labour market information (including a skills development strategy).

Delivery

- Development of sub-regional networks and partnerships.
- Use of information and communications technology for outreach activities and flexible delivery of programmes.
- Development of learning pathways with other providers, especially FECs.
- Development of guidance and information services for potential and actual students.
- Development of a region-wide HE participation strategy.

Target groups

- School age pupils.
- New HE entrants to enhance retention.
- Recent graduates to increase rate of graduate retention in region.
- Mature students.
- Students in employment.
- Specific geographical areas identified, such as coastal towns.

Future partners

- East of England Development Agency (RDA).
- Development of links to all the region's Lifelong Learning Partnerships.
- Small and medium enterprises - stimulation of demand for graduate level staff.
- Schools.

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Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in the Eastern region

HEFCE fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£915,000	£244,000	£1,159,000

Eastern region: funded projects

A set of collaborative initiatives to address the higher education needs and aspirations of socially disadvantaged members of the local population, and the barriers to meeting those needs

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Hertfordshire, University of Luton, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire FECs and Lifelong Learning Partnerships	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	274,500 31,000 **305,500**	University of Hertfordshire Alan Weir, Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies e.mail: A.Weir@herts.ac.uk Tel: 01707 285200

Aims of the project

An immediate priority is to produce structures that increase HE participation in identified local areas of particular socio/educational disadvantage in both counties.

Other aims are:

- to extend and develop collaborative research to underpin the development of good practice and to disseminate widely the information obtained and good practice identified
- to build upon and extend the existing frameworks of collaboration established between the universities, their associated FECs and the newly established Lifelong Learning Partnerships
- to work with FECs in targeting under-represented groups for improved access to higher education and to enhance the progression routes from FECs to HEIs
- to invest in additional developments in the provision of information, advice and guidance
- to provide added support for disadvantaged students who enter education and to monitor their success.

Building on the partnerships developed in 1999 between the Four Counties of HEIs

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
The Four Counties Group consisting of: Anglia Polytechnic University, University of Cambridge, University of East Anglia, University of Essex, Homerton College, Norwich School of Art and Design, Open University, Writtle College. They are working in partnership with the seven Lifelong Learning Partnerships in the Four Counties including Cambridgeshire, Greater Peterborough, Norfolk, North Essex, South Essex, Suffolk and Thurrock	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	640,500 153,000 **793,500**	Anglia Polytechnic University Professor Chris Green e-mail: c.green@anglia.ac.uk Tel: 01245 493131 ext 4925

Aims of the project

There are five general themes represented in the project:

- research and development – producing a database of HE student participation
- outreach – targeting 'cold' spots through a range of local activities organised by partnerships involving HEIs, FECs, LLPs and schools
- retention – evaluation of retention within existing programmes
- access – establish and maintain a database of existing and planned higher education provision
- sectoral bid in land-based industries – establish a comprehensive regional curriculum framework map of land-based provision to support future strategic development and regional planning, and to raise awareness of HE opportunities in this sector.

Increasing participation in higher education for Bangladeshi and Pakistani women and Afro-Caribbean men

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Barnfield College, Barnfield, Bedford, Dunstable and Luton Sixth Form Colleges, Bedfordshire CCTE, CFBT, Learning for Life (Beds); Bedfordshire County Council, Luton Borough Council, South Beds Adult Education Service, Luton Adult Education Service	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 30,000 **30,000**	Barnfield College Fintan Donohue e-mail: Fintan.Donohue@admin.barnfield.ac.uk Tel: 01582 569 526

Aims of the project

The project aims to:

- obtain a clearer picture through data analysis of the patterns of progression to HE of people from the target groups
- develop an enhanced understanding of the perceptions of HE of potential HE students, their families and their communities
- identify barriers to progression and suggest actions to address these
- provide enhanced information, guidance and encouragement to apply to HE for students on advanced courses in the FE sector colleges
- provide enhanced information and advice regarding progression to HE for parents and family members from identified communities
- disseminate findings and outcomes of project activity with a view to enhancing progression for subsequent cohorts from the three communities and more widely.

Widening participation in higher education by developing new progression routes through further education for under-represented groups

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
West Herts College	HEFCE	0	West Herts College Sue Warman e-mail: s.warman@westherts. ac.uk Tel: 01923 812371
	HEFCE/FEFC	30,000	
	Total	**30,000**	

Aims of the project

The aims of the project are:

- to contribute to the achievements of Lifelong Learning Partnership targets for 21-year-olds
- to map across the four FE colleges, non-traditional routes into Level 3 FE programmes and to agree credit ratings for such provision, which will establish equivalence
- to identify gaps in provision and recommend programme development to fill these gaps
- to develop FE to HE progression routes, including the development of bridging courses and summer schools as appropriate
- to disseminate the project report widely across the Lifelong Learning Partnership.

London region: regional priorities

Proposals should address one or more of the following regional priorities.

Combating social exclusion

The main priority relates to the participation of ethnic minorities and other non-traditional groups in HE. Specific aspects include the importance of admission procedures, guidance and support systems, curriculum content, progression routes, monitoring and evaluation.

Student indebtedness

How to help students manage the financial implications of HE. Related aspects include: how changes in student support systems are viewed by low income families; why lack of experience in financial planning prevents students from low income families from taking opportunities in higher education; and how counselling and guidance can help students develop skills in financial planning.

Working in the community

Key elements are the importance of outreach, collaboration and sharing knowledge; the value of partnerships and networking; and the need to develop a strategy for identifying outputs.

Employability

Aspects include preparing students for employment, equipping them with transferable skills, providing careers guidance, and informing employers.

Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in the London region

HEFCE fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£1,932,000	£514,000	£2,446,000

London region: funded projects

Focus on higher education

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Westminster, South Bank University, University College London, London Guildhall University, University College Students Union	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	150,000 0 **150,000**	University of Westminster Maxine Walker e-mail: walkerm@wmin.ac.uk Tel: 020 7911 5765

Aims of the project

The universities in this project have already worked together for 18 months on a pilot project called Student Focus. This is an HE awareness project using university student ambassadors to carry out a varied programme of work in schools. It will target Year 10-12 pupils identified as having the potential to go on to HE if extra support and encouragement are provided. This programme will include: small group mentoring, help in homework clubs, visits to the universities by pupils, talks about HE and life as a student, and shadowing.

Progression and retention of part-time students

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Birkbeck College, University of East London, Kings College London, City and Islington College, Kensington & Chelsea College, Hackney Community College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	230,850 0 **230,850**	Birkbeck College Professor T Schuller e-mail: t.schuller@bbk.ac.uk Tel: 020 7631 6681

Aims of the project

The key strategic aims of this project are:

- to extend Birkbeck's experience in catering for part-time adult students from diverse social and educational backgrounds
- to select a limited number of key educational partners from those with whom links already exist, in order to develop these substantially on a broad, continuing and longer-term basis
- to focus on retention and progression as much as extra recruitment
- to include study on non-degree awards.

The South West London Sub-Regional Scheme to Widen Participation in Higher Education

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Kingston University, Roehampton Institute, St Mary's University College, AZTEC, South West London Lifelong Learning Partnership, Esher College, Guildford College, Kingston College, Merton College, Richmond College, South Thames College, West Thames College, Carshalton College, Hillcroft College, Richmond Adult & Community College, Phoenix College, St Francis Xavier 6th Form College, Westminster College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 80,000 **80,000**	Kingston University Dr Larry Roberts e-mail: l.roberts@kingston.ac.uk Tel: 020 8547 7032

Aims of the project

The overall aim of the project includes:

- establishment of a new partnership in the sub-region of South West London of stakeholders involved in promoting access to higher education
- a range of statistical instruments and analysis tools to provide comprehensive qualitative information and quantitative data facilitating the identification of key trends and issues
- recognition of existing good practice in individual institutions in the partnership and dissemination of these practices across the partnership
- piloting and development of new initiatives that encourage progression from 16-19 education to HE
- setting of annual targets for improvement in progression into HE, retention and achievement among under-represented groups

Opening Doors

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of East London, Havering College of FE and HE, Barking College, Redbridge College of FE, Newham Training & Education Centre, Sebert Road training Centre, Newham	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 80,000 **80,000**	University of East London Carole Snee e-mail: c.j.snee@uel.ac.uk Tel: 020 8223 3371

Aims of the project

The Opening Doors Project aims to extend access to education opportunities, raise aspirations, and support progression to higher education through:

- delivery of a flexible programme of educational guidance in community venues
- developing accessible ICT versions of this programme tailored to the needs of the client group
- developing the skills and confidence of the non-traditional higher education entrant.

Some of the main outcomes will be an Opening Doors web-site, and the design and piloting of an Open Doors programme with six student cohorts from socially excluded communities (80 participants).

Development of an interactive web-based tutorial system for A-level mathematics

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	176,000 0 **176,000**	Imperial College Dr R Eastwood e-mail: r.eastwood@ic.ac.uk Tel: 020 7594 7272

Aims of the project

This project will help students from disadvantaged backgrounds attain the necessary qualifications to access and succeed on degree courses in science & engineering by providing support for the study of mathematics at 'A' level. This aim will be achieved by the development and rolling out, in collaboration with partner schools and colleges, of an interactive platform – independent tutorial system for 'A' level mathematics. The system will be web-accessible, and also deliverable via offline media such as CD-ROM.

Widening participation through art, design and performance

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
The London Institute, Central School of Speech & Drama, Goldsmiths College, Middlesex University, London Guildhall University, Royal College of Art, Thames Valley University, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Trinity College of Music, Rose Bruford College, Ravensbourne College, Wimbledon School of Art, University of Westminster, Lewisham College, Hammersmith & West London College, other London FE Colleges, The City Lit, Morley College, The Open College of Arts, The London Arts Board	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	200,000 0 **200,000**	The London Institute Mike Matfin e-mail: mike.matfin@linst.ac.uk Tel: 020 7514 6005

Aims of the project

The project seeks to explore and identify ways in which the partner institutions can build upon the work already being undertaken in art, design and performing arts. By the end of the second year the project will have established, among other outcomes, an information and guidance centre which will complement initiatives already undertaken by the three existing London consortia for widening participation.

Developing employability in under-represented groups

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of East London, University of North London, University of the South Bank, Westminster University, London Guildhall University, Middlesex University	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	209,000 0 **209,000**	University of North London Dr Barbara Page e-mail: b.page@unl.ac.uk Tel 020 7753 5765

Aims of the project

This programme seeks to establish the views of the major stakeholders concerned with the development of graduate employability amongst ethnic minorities, mature students (23-30 years of age), and those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Among the outcomes will be the production of up to four case studies describing pilot action projects designed to enhance the employability of these undergraduate groups.

Widening participation in health professions education

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
The Royal Veterinary College, King's College London, Middlesex University, Queen Mary & Westfield College, St George's Hospital Medical School, The School of Pharmacy, University College London. Also supported by Kingston University	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	240,000 0 **240,000**	The Royal Veterinary College Paul Probyn e-mail: pprobyn@rvc.ac.uk Tel: 020 7468 5113

Aims of the project

The aims of the project are:

- to disseminate information about the routes of entry to the health-related professions, and the criteria for entry to programmes of study in these disciplines
- to develop direct links between staff and pupils in schools and FE colleges, and HE admissions staff
- to identify barriers to entry to these disciplines
- to achieve agreement between the HE partners and schools partners on activities to facilitate progression of under-represented groups into health-related programmes.

Widening participation in broadcasting education and employment

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication, Youth Culture Television	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	74,150 0 **74,150**	Ravensbourne College Kate Wilson e-mail: k.wilson@rave.ac.uk Tel: 020 8289 4926

Aims of the project

The project defines a strategy for increasing participation in HE broadcasting courses among students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and will bring together a higher education institution, a community-based charitable organisation, and representatives of the broadcasting industry.

A collaborative framework for widening participation in Islington, Haringay, Tower Hamlets and Hackney

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of North London, London Borough of Islington Education Dept, Haringey Education Dept, Hackney Leisure and Tourism Services, Tower Hamlets Education Dept. Also partners in LLP	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	180,000 0 **180,000**	University of North London Harinder Lawley e-mail: h.lawley@unl.ac.uk Tel 020 7753 5116

Aims of the project

Building on the work of the collaborative framework for widening participation which was carried out in 1998, the aim of this second phase is to build on and maximise synergy by working with other current and relevant initiatives. One of the outcomes will be the establishment of a collaborative sub-regional group, supported by the Lifelong Learning Partnership, working across sectoral and local authority boundaries to raise aspirations, expectations and achievement levels within the specified target groups.

Widening participation in North London

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Middlesex University, The Higher Education & Training Partnership (Middlesex University, Barnet College, College of North East London, Harlow College, Waltham Forest College) in association with Enfield College, Hendon College and Southgate College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 97,000 **97,000**	Middlesex University Ken Goulding e-mail: K.Goulding@mdx.ac.uk Tel: 020 8362 5656

Aims of the project

The project aims to combat the exclusion of young people from lower socio-economic groups in North London by, for example:

- the introduction of the Higher Education Progression Award to provide an NOCN validated University Preparation Unit (additional to Key Skills for Compact students) focusing on personal organisation and action planning
- setting up an interactive web-site to provide guidance on progression and advise on contacts and visit days in the university
- encouragement of progression pathways from school to FE college to Middlesex University.

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Collaborative partnership for widening participation in the east and north-east of London

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Queen Mary & Westfield College, City University, University of East London, London Guildhall University, University of North London, Open University in London	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	240,000 0 **240,000**	Queen Mary & Westfield College Dr Sue Dunn e-mail: s.m.dunn@qmw.ac.uk Tel: 020 7882 3339

Aims of the project

This project will build on the work already accomplished by the partnership. Aims include tackling the barriers to participation of low aspirations and attainment through:

- extended provision
- improved advice and guidance
- institutional change
- development of a student and community voice.

South-East London Higher Education Participation Scheme (SELHEPS)

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
South Bank University, Goldsmiths College, University of Greenwich, Lambeth College, Lewisham College, Southwark College, Woolwich College, London Open College Network, Rockingham Community Centre, L'Ouverture Theatre Education Group, Greenwich Community College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	232,000 0 **232,000**	South Bank University Dr Ruth Farwell e-mail: farwelr@sbu.ac.uk Tel: 020 7815 6010

Aims of the project

Three HEIs have been working together on SELHEPS for Phase 1 of the HEFCE-funded scheme. Phase 2 aims to develop the successful sub-regional approach pioneered in phase 1. They plan to use these achievements as a springboard and take advantage of the evaluation of phase 1 activities to conduct a research exercise based on the geodemographic profile of the SELHEPS cohort. Operational outcomes include Skills Exchanges to assist in the growing awareness of widening participation across the partnership and the development of a SELHEPS web-site.

Development of key skills for progression from FE to HE

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Woolwich College, Lambeth College, Lewisham College, Southwark College, Woolwich with Greenwich Community College, Christ the King 6th Form College, University of Greenwich, South Bank University, Goldsmith's College, London University, South Bank Careers	HEFCE	0	Woolwich College Geoff Pine e-mail; geoffp@woolwich.ac.uk Tel: 020 8488 4893/4809
	HEFCE/FEFC	173,500	
	Total	**173,500**	

Aims of the project

The London South Central Lifelong Learning Partnership project will seek to develop key skills for progression in vocational areas. The aims of the project include:

- investigation of the curriculum match for progression from FE to HE, with particular respect to key skills in the areas of business, health, nursing, computing, and teaching
- to set up a South London Partnership web-site which maps progression routes, criteria for progression, and student support available across the partner institutions with the targeted vocational provision
- to deliver joint staff development between FE and HE specifically to address understanding of the two cultures.

Opening Doors: the gateway to higher education

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Havering College, Barking College, Redbridge College, University of East London	HEFCE	0	Havering College of F & HE Maureen Clark e-mail: mclark@havering-college.ac.uk Tel: 01708 462869
	HEFCE/FEFC	83,500	
	Total	**83,500**	

Aims of the project

This project will focus on improving the progression rate of non-traditional further education students to higher education and preparing them for successful participation. Intended outcomes include the production and piloting, by the end of the first year of the project, of two modules – one intended for integration in the further education curriculum at level 3, and one intended for use in the first year of a degree level course. Both modules will develop the generic transferable skills required for successful higher education study, which include understanding and judgement, problem-solving skills, and ability to communicate both orally and in writing.

East Midlands region: regional priorities

Eligibility criteria

Proposals must meet all the following criteria:

- satisfy the national criteria
- target groups/areas of low participation in HE
- involve genuine collaborative activity including at least two HEIs and the majority of FECs in the area
- be endorsed by the relevant Lifelong Learning Partnership(s)
- build progression routes from FE colleges and schools into HE (eligibility criterion for joint FEFC/HEFCE fund).

Optional criteria

Proposals must target at least one of the following:

- low participation in rural and semi-rural areas
- pre-entry/ongoing support for disadvantaged areas
- student indebtedness
- men between the ages of 16 and 30
- areas of economic deprivation and/or industrial decline
- under-represented ethnic minority groups
- progression routes from FE colleges and schools into HE (optional for the HEFCE fund).

Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in the East Midlands region

HEFCE fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£1,194,000	£319,000	£1,513,000

East Midlands region: funded projects

GAP: guidance and progression strategies for widening participation

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Derby, University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University, Lifelong Learning Partnerships of Derbyshire, Greater Nottingham and North Nottinghamshire, The Lifelong Learning Guidance Networks of Derbyshire and Greater Nottingham, Broxtowe College, Mackworth College, Derby Tertiary College: Wilmorton, New College Nottingham, People's College, South East Derbyshire College, South Nottingham College, University Centre Mansfield, West Nottinghamshire College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	300,000 100,000 **400,000**	University of Derby Professor Beverly Sand e-mail: B.Sand@derby.ac.uk Tel: 01332 622260

Aims of the project

The main aims and outcomes include:

- the further development of strategic sub-regional partnerships comprising the University of Derby, University of Nottingham, and Nottingham Trent University and their respective FE partners and the relevant Lifelong Learning Partnerships
- to target activities at communities identified by means of a number of indicators as under-represented in further and higher education, including specific areas in Mansfield and Ashfield, Greater Nottingham, Erewash and Amber Valley, and north-east and north-west Derby
- by the end of the project, for at least six institutions to be offering credit-based progression routes into higher education targeted at specific groups.

Implementing strategic planning to widen HE participation in Northamptonshire

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University College Northampton, Daventry Tertiary College, Moulton College, Northampton College, Northamptonshire Chamber, Education and Community Learning, Tresham Institute	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	238,808 0 **238,808**	University College, Northampton Dr Marie Stowell e-mail: Marie.Stowell@ Northampton.ac.uk Tel: 01604 735500

Aims of the project

This project seeks to operationalise, establish and expand what has been achieved so far within the Phase 1 HEFCE-funded project 'Strategic planning to widen participation in Northamptonshire'. The aim is to put into operation the results of the research/consultancy activity of Phase 1 on local patterns of attainment, progression and HE participation with reference to socio-economic backgrounds. Among the main outcomes of the projects will be:

- a fully staffed Widening Participation Unit in Northamptonshire to include further development of the schools cluster and accrediting other achievement
- a strategic five-year plan for widening participation in Northamptonshire, which will encompass the Admissions Compact Scheme and Student Support Programme with peer support networks.

Participation in higher education through sport

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Loughborough University, Loughborough College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 51,000 **51,000**	Loughborough University Professor John Feather e-mail: j.p.feather@lboro.ac.uk Tel: 01509 223058

Aims of the project

The main aim is to establish an access programme with an initial intake of 20-30 students from ethnic groups currently under-represented in higher education. Recruitment will focus on Afro-Caribbean, Bengali and other ethnic minority communities in socio-economic groups 4 and 5, primarily in the East Midlands region.

Residential summer school for mature applicants to HE

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Loughborough University, Co-operative College at Stanford Hall, Loughborough	HEFCE	0	Loughborough University Professor John Feather e-mail: j.p.feather@lboro.ac.uk Tel: 01509 223058
	HEFCE/FEFC	21,670	
	Total	**21,670**	

Aims of the project

The project will arrange a five-day residential summer school for approximately 20-25 adults, predominantly from the East Midlands region and from ethnic and socio-economic groups currently under-represented in higher education.

Personal Educational Advice for Rural Learners (PEARL)

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Lincolnshire & Humberside, Open University, De Montfort University (Lincoln campus), Bishop Grosseteste College, Boston College, North Lincolnshire College, Lincolnshire TEC	HEFCE	253,042	University of Lincolnshire & Humberside Dr Terrence Karran e-mail: tkarran@humber.ac.uk Tel: 01482 463158
	HEFCE/FEFC	19,948	
	Total	**272,990**	

Aims of the project

Some of the main overarching aims of the project are to:

- provide a supplementary support network of peripatetic Educational Advisers, based in Regional Access Centres, to give personal advice on learning opportunities and act as a point of contact for second chance learners, and those with limited access to learning through rural isolation
- link educational institutions with local communities, by creating a user-friendly front end package to allow the database to be easily interrogated by prospective students in rural areas at home or at work, and in three specially designated Regional Access Centres, and over 40 other access points (mainly libraries) across the region.

Widening participation to higher education in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Leicester, De Montfort University, Loughborough University, Leicestershire Training and Enterprise Council Ltd, Leicestershire Careers and Guidance Service Ltd, The Leicester City Cluster of schools and colleges	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	402,150 0 **402,150**	University of Leicester Janet Graham e-mail: jg1m@admin.le.ac.uk Tel: 0116 252 2414

Aims of the project

This project will build on and extend the current HEFCE-funded pilot project. Target schools, colleges and FE colleges were identified in the pilot. Planned aims and outcomes include: activities such as shadowing, tutoring, open days, taster courses, and summer schools; and the partners collaborating to develop a 'parents pack' to help parents in advising their children.

Developing local credit qualifications framework and progression routes from FE to HE for learners in rural and semi-rural Lincolnshire

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Lincolnshire Consortium of Colleges and Universities	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 95,000 **95,000**	North Lincolnshire College Graham Billups e-mail: g_billups@nlincs-coll.ac.uk Tel: 01522 876000 ext 600

Aims of the project

The main aims of the project are:

- to strengthen existing FE/HE partnerships between key institutions
- to develop a framework of credit from Level 3 through to Level 5 in specific areas such as construction, engineering, information technology, business, management, land industries, art and design, and health and social care
- to identify a range of possible progression pathways. These might include flexible, distance and work-based routes.

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Widening participation partnerships with HE

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Leicester College, Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland Lifelong Learning Partnership	HEFCE	0	Leicester College Peter Jones Tel: 0116 224 4062
	HEFCE/FEFC	31,382	
	Total	**31,382**	

Aims of the project

The project aims to carry out interviews and produce case studies which will identify the crucial success factors in supporting students through the transitions:

- from Level 2 to Level 3 within FE
- from Level 3 or Access on to HE application
- from HE application through to taking up a place and being retained through the first year of the course.

West Midlands region: regional priorities

The regional priorities for widening participation funding are:

- identification and recruitment of under-represented groups
- retention of under-represented groups
- development and support for work-based learners
- identification, development and dissemination of successful practices – particularly collaborative ventures.

Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in the West Midlands region

HEFCE Fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE Fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£2,136,000	£467,420	£2,603,420

West Midlands region: funded projects

Recognising and supporting the learning experiences of part-time students from low participation neighbourhoods

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Newman College of Higher Education, Bournville College of Further Education, Warwickshire County Council	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	105,000 0 **105,000**	Newman College of Higher Education Pamela Taylor e-mail: p.t.taylor@newman.ac.uk Tel: 0121 476 1181 ext 2241

Aims of the project

This funding is for two linked retention and student support initiatives targeted at part-time students recruited from low participation neighbourhoods and low participation groups. The project intends to improve the learning experience and outcomes for part-time students undertaking work-based programmes. They focus on:

- improving the key skill of writing
- improving the quality of the work-based elements of part-time programmes.

Under-representation of Muslim women: enhancing the new sites of learning

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Birmingham, University of Central England with community organisations and local FE colleges, such as City College Birmingham (East Birmingham College) and South Birmingham College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	154,100 0 **154,100**	University of Birmingham Jane Nelson e-mail: j.c.nelson@bham.ac.uk Tel: 0121 414 3755 Anita Pickerden e-mail: a.pickerden@westhill.ac.uk Tel: 0121 415 2401

Aims of the project

The project plans to build upon the success of the current HEFCE funded project which has investigated the barriers to participation in HE facing Muslim women. This has established that there is a considerable need to provide local, community based higher education programmes for Bangladeshi and Pakistani women who, for a variety of reasons, are unable or unwilling to travel to an HE campus. These needs have been addressed by offering a small number of HE courses on a trial basis in community based centres in South and East Birmingham. This next phase of the project will see the consolidation of this work, and the establishing of new links with other community groups.

Widening participation in the Black Country: establishing a community entry programme into higher education

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Black Country Partnership for Learning: Dudley College, Dudley MBC, Dudley TEC, Employment Service (North), Halesowen College, King Edward VI College, Linkway Adult Education, OCNWM, Prospects Careers Service, Rowley Regis College, Sandwell Adult Education Service, Sandwell College, Sandwell TEC, Stourbridge College, University of Wolverhampton, Walsall College, Walsall MBC, Walsall TEC, Wolverhampton Adult Education Service, Wolverhampton CCTE, Wolverhampton College, Workers Educational Association	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	321,000 0 **321,000**	University of Wolverhampton Dr Vivien Wylie e-mail: V.Wylie@wlv.ac.uk Tel: 01902 323434

Aims of the project

The primary target populations for this project's work are unemployed young men (both white and Afro-Caribbean) and Asian women. However, the previous HEFCE-funded project has also made an impact on other disadvantaged groups in the communities, and it is expected that they will benefit from this new proposal. One of the outcomes of the work will be to produce a Community Entry Programme (CEP) which offers additional and new routes into HE sympathetic to the needs of target groups.

Rural opportunities: providing sustainable access to higher education in the rural West Midlands

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Wolverhampton, The Open University, Harper Adams University College, University of Birmingham, University of Central England in Birmingham, University College Worcester, Herefordshire College of Technology, Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology, Ludlow College, Herefordshire County Council, The Marches Consortium, the Community Councils of Shropshire, and of Herefordshire and Worcestershire	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	282,000 145,000 **427,000**	University of Wolverhampton Dr Vivien Wylie e-mail: v.wylie@wlv.ac.uk Tel: 01902 323434

Aims of the project

Building on the strengths and achievements of the existing WP projects in Herefordshire and Shropshire, the project plans to target identified currently excluded rural groups and facilitate their entry, retention, and progression through higher education. One of the specific outcomes will be a 'call-centre', together with the supporting database development and maintenance services, and the implementation of web-enabled access to data and call-centre service. The partners also plan to use a learning bus to promote and deliver services to remoter areas; and to use residentials and open and distance supported ICT materials as appropriate.

Development of Birmingham REACHOUT Unit

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Birmingham, Fircroft College, Matthew Boulton College, City of Birmingham Adult Education Dept, South West Birmingham Partnership (Bournville College of FE, Fircroft College, Newman College, University of Birmingham, Westhill)	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	288,000 0 **288,000**	University of Birmingham Jane Nelson e-mail: j.c.nelson@bham.ac.uk Tel: 0121 414 3755

Aims of the project

This proposal builds on an existing partnership between the University of Birmingham, Fircroft College and other major providers of adult education in the City of Birmingham. In particular it will establish and develop the work of Birmingham REACHOUT, which provides guidance and support to non-traditional students from inner-city Birmingham.

Staffordshire Universities Maths Summer School

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Burton College, Cannock Chase Technical College, Keele University, Leek College, Newcastle College, The North Shropshire College, Rodbaston College, Shrewsbury College of Art & Technology, Stafford College, Staffordshire University, Stoke-on Trent College, City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College, Tamworth & Lichfield College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	225,000 0 **225,000**	Staffordshire University Dr Susan O'Brien e-mail: s.o'brien@staffs.ac.uk Tel: 01785 353205

Aims of the project

The project aims to:

- open up access to degree and sub-degree programmes in engineering, technology, business, computing, science, and social science for students from under-represented groups through the upgrading of mathematical skills and general capability to succeed in higher education
- raise the profile of the importance of numeracy skills and to publicise the provision of confidence-building activities in mathematics at all levels across the county, through a collaborative marketing and guidance project – Maths 4 Staffs – involving the two universities and all the FE colleges.

Student tutoring and school outreach programmes

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Birmingham Westhill, University of Central England in Birmingham (UCE), Newman College of HE, Matthew Boulton College, Careers & Education Business Partnership, Community Service Volunteers, Aston/Nechells Education Zone, Kitts Green/Shard End Education Action Zone, City College Birmingham, Solihull Sixth Form College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	178,500 31,500 **210,000**	Aston University Mandy Ingleby e-mail: a.ingleby@aston.ac.uk Tel: 0121 359 3611 ext 4822

Aims of the project

This project constitutes phase two of a current one-year project, led by Aston University, entitled 'The contribution of student tutoring to widening participation'. Some of the project aims are:

- to pilot, evaluate and refine a programme of outreach activities with schools, working initially with Education Zone Schools
- to share project outcomes within partner institutions, and regionally and nationally through widening participation and staff development networks, workshops, web links and publications
- to develop and evaluate the contribution of student tutoring towards improved progression and retention.

Meeting a regional need for widening participation: a strategic collaborative approach

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Coventry University, University College Worcester, University of Warwick, Coventry Technical College, Henley College, Hereward College, North Warwickshire & Hinckley College, Solihull College, Stratford-upon-Avon College, Tile Hill College, Warwickshire College, Compact schools in Coventry, Warwickshire, Solihull, Worcestershire. Coventry City Council, the Open College Network, The Employment Service, Quality Careers, The Chamber, Warwickshire County Council, LEA and Lifelong Learning Directorate	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	582,000 0 **582,000**	Coventry University Dr Lynn Martin e-mail: L.Martin@coventry.ac.uk Tel: 01203 838149

Aims of the project

Some of the projects main objectives are:

- to raise awareness of – and stimulate demand for – higher education by working in partnership with families in schools in severely disadvantaged areas
- to design and implement a set of measures pre-entry to HE which will extend and diversify current ways to support access to HE
- to design and implement a set of measures after entry to HE to support participants, particularly in the crucial stages of their first year of study
- to develop the widening participation strategy across all institutions taking part by developing a sub-regional credit framework, which also involves the Open College Network and other external links.

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Worcestershire HE research & development programme

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Worcestershire Colleges Consortium: North East Worcestershire College, Evesham College, Kidderminster College, Pershore Group of Colleges, Worcester College of Technology, University College Worcester, Worcestershire Lifelong Learning Partnership	HEFCE	0	North East Worcestershire College Jon Gamble e-mail: jon.gamble@ne.worcs.ac.uk Tel: 01527 572700
	HEFCE/FEFC	38,350	
	Total	**38,350**	

Aims of the project

This consortium intends to set up a cross-county research and development function that will result in widening access to disadvantaged groups. The proposed outcomes include:

- an increase in participation in HE by students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- greater clarity of pathway opportunities available to participate in HE, presented in written, intermediary (support workers in the community) and online forms
- design and set-up of a web-site to provide online HE vocational guidance.

WEA/Higher Education West Midlands Partnership

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Workers' Educational Association West Mercia District, School of Continuing Studies at Birmingham University, Dept of Continuing Education at the University of Warwick, University of Wolverhampton and Open University (West Midlands)	HEFCE	0	Workers' Educational Association Peter Caldwell e-mail: PeterCaldwell1@compuserve.com Tel: 0121 622 4555
	HEFCE/FEFC	55,015	
	Total	**55,015**	

Aims of the project

The WEA is an FEFC-funded institution. Some of the project's aims are as follows:

- to develop a West Midlands wide partnership of universities within the WEA, the only region wide FE provider
- to map WEA access to HE curriculum against relevant university courses
- to identify ways of using access funding to support cohorts of WEA students moving into higher education.

Disability and higher education

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Coventry Technical College, Henley College, Hereward College, Tile Hill College, Coventry City Council, Coventry University, University of Warwick, Quality Careers Services Ltd, University College Worcester, SCOPE East Midlands	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 51,300 **51,300**	Hereward College Mike Thompson e-mail: staff074@hereward.ac.uk Tel: 01203 426175

Aims of the project

This project seeks to increase the rates of participation by disabled people in higher education. Its aims include:

- undertaking original research to identify disabled people with or working towards Level 3 qualifications in Coventry and Warwickshire
- developing progression routes between local FECs and HEIs that actively support disabled learners, including the exploration of flexible modes of attendance or programme duration and 'link' type courses.

Supporting learners following non-traditional vocational routes into higher education

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Black Country Partnership: Wolverhampton College, Walsall College of Arts and Technology, College of Continuing Education in Walsall, Dudley College of Technology, Halesowen College, King Edward VI College, Stourbridge College, Rowley Regis College, Wolverhampton University	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC72 **Total**	0 38,255 **38,255**	Wolverhampton College Shirley Bruneau e-mail: mail@wulfrun.ac.uk Tel: 01902 317700

Aims of the project

This project seeks to encourage greater access to HE by learners following non-traditional programmes. It aims to increase understanding by university staff of the learning experience for these students in FE, and increase understanding among FE staff of the learning experience of these students on degree programmes, through staff shadowing in the Black Country colleges and Wolverhampton University.

North-East region: regional priorities

General

- All bids must have a significant collaborative element involving HEIs and/or FECs.
- All bids will be co-ordinated through a single region-wide organisation.
- All bids must demonstrate how they will contribute to the development and implementation of a regional widening participation strategy.

Bids should focus on one or more of the following broad areas.

Information and dissemination

- The development of a common regional data framework.
- Further development and maintenance of a regional database to support widening participation activities with an emphasis on 'real-time' information.
- Further work on the analysis of postcode and neighbourhood type participation information.
- Undertaking and developing audit of institutional practice, including institutional self-audit procedures.
- Ongoing regional mapping of participation in HE and FE.
- Developing links between provision and labour market information (including a skills development strategy).

Delivery

- Development of sub-regional networks and partnerships.
- Use of information and communications technology for outreach activities and flexible delivery of programmes.
- Development of learning pathways with other providers especially FECs and LLPs.
- Simplification of learning pathways, including the development of guidance and information services for potential and actual students.
- Development of a region-wide credit framework.
- Development of a region-wide HE participation strategy.

Target groups and future partners

- One North-East (the Regional Development Association).
- Development of links to all the region's LLPs.
- Work with schools and school age pupils.
- New HE entrants to enhance retention.
- Semi-rural areas (especially small former pit villages).
- Recent graduates and current undergraduates to increase rate of graduate retention in the region.

- Ethnic minority groups.
- Mature students.

There will be an ongoing research and dissemination programme to underpin the above work.

Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in the North-East region

HEFCE fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£1,713,000	£457,000	£2,170,000

North-East region: funded projects

Increasing higher education participation rates

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
County Durham Strategic Lifelong Learning Partnership: Durham County Council (represented by LEA), County Durham TEC & Business Link, Bishop Auckland College, Derwentside College, New College Durham, East Durham & Houghall Community College, University of Durham, Durham Association of School Heads (representing secondary schools), Workers' Educational Association (representing the voluntary sector), County Durham Careers Service, Key Training (representing the Work Based Training Providers Network)	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 95,000 **95,000**	University of Durham e-mail: Jim.Lewis@durham.ac.uk Tel: 01642 335034

Aims of the project

Three project workers to be appointed who will:

- build on best practice, sharing information and material currently available, for example, via the Careers Service
- identify pathways into FE and HE, both within the county and the North-East region
- produce information packs which will improve progression to locally based HE programmes
- plan and deliver staff development events for those who guide/influence student choice.

Target groups are adult returners to the education and labour market, and students progressing from compulsory education and FE colleges into HE. The outcomes of this project have been designed to complement a proposal developed by Universities for the North East (Widening participation – a higher education strategy for the North-East).

Widening participation – a higher education strategy for the North-East

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, University of Durham, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, University of Sunderland, University of Teesside, The Open University in the North	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	1,713,000 0 **1,713,000**	University of Newcastle upon Tyne on behalf of Universities for the North East Alan Sanderson e-mail: alan.sanderson@unis4ne.ac.uk Tel: 0191 5164403

Aims of the project

This project plans to embed the lessons from earlier work on widening participation and the results from phase 1 of the 1998-99 HEFCE initiative. The bid incorporates proposals from the region's six universities, each of which addresses four generic themes:

- raising aspirations
- pre-entry activities and initiatives
- curriculum developments
- student support, progression and retention.

For example, raising aspirations will involve working with schools, parents and families, and the proposed activities include work such as the extension and embedding of student tutoring, activities for pupils in Years 9-13, targeting of schools with low progression rates, work with pupils from age 8 and the development of a 'junior university'.

Developing progression networks and pathways

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Teesside, Middlesbrough College, Hartlepool College of Further Education, Teesside Tertiary College, Cleveland College of Art and Design, Stockton and Billingham College, Redcar & Cleveland College, Darlington College of Technology, Prior Pursglove College, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Hartlepool Sixth College Bede College St Mary's Sixth Form College, Stockton Sixth Form College, Tees Valley Workers Educational Association, Future Steps, Durham Careers Service	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 95,000 **95,000**	Middlesbrough College Alan Clifford e-mail: fa.clifford@mbro.ac.uk Tel: 01642 333369 University of Teesside Dr Margaret Noble e-mail: m.noble@tees.ac.uk Tel: 01642 384257

Aims of the project

The aim of the project is to develop increased progression routes from further to higher education through focusing on two main client groups: 16-19 learners and adult learners. It will address the low levels of participation in further and higher education and the limited take-up of progression opportunities in the Tees Valley region. There will be a particular emphasis on disadvantaged groups through both geographical and sectoral focus of the project activities. The proposal builds on existing and developing progression work within the region:

- pathways between further education colleges and higher education through the Passport Scheme
- the development of outreach work in the community, in particular through building on the work of the Summer College (HEFCE funded) and college outreach centres
- provision of enhanced support and guidance to encourage participation and retention through developing the work of information and guidance 'one stop shops' in the region.

Access for rural communities

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Northumberland College, Newcastle College, University of Newcastle, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Northumberland Community High Schools	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 95,000 **95,000**	Northumberland College Dr Tim Capron e-mail: tim.capron@northland.ac.uk Tel: 01670 841215

Aims of the project

This project aims to widen participation in higher education by people living in Northumberland for whom access is difficult by virtue of rural isolation or the social and economic exclusion and disadvantage of their communities. It plans to develop and pilot ICT-based delivery of local access course provision, and provide outreach HE-related educational guidance and support (including web-based materials, video-conferencing, printed, telephone and personal contact) through a mixture of ICT-based and local delivery.

Mapping of progression pathways into the FE/HE curriculum

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Newcastle College, City of Sunderland FEC, Gateshead FEC, North Tyneside FEC, South Tyneside FEC, Tynemouth FEC, University of Newcastle, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, University of Sunderland	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 172,000 **172,000**	Newcastle College Roger Lowans e-mail: rlowans@ncl-coll.ac.uk Tel: 0191 2004000

Aims of the project

The aim of this project is to map, enhance and support progression pathways into the HE curriculum. Specific objectives are:

- to map existing progression opportunities from FE Level 3 and 4 programmes, to degree and top-up degree provision in the three universities
- to explore and re-define admissions criteria in terms of the new FE qualifications framework in advance of Curriculum 2000
- to identify and share information on the support needs of learners at the FE/HE interface so as to encourage a seamless transition from one learning environment to another.

North-West region: regional priorities

The regional priorities for widening participation funding are:

- sub-regional considerations – to include employability issues
- links with other areas of education to facilitate progression
- targeted at other areas of need such as schools, wards or communities, to include issues arising from education action zones
- genuine collaborative bids which are student centred rather than institutionally centred
- curriculum development – to embed progression routes
- development of a web-based data source aimed at users in the region.

Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in the North-West region

HEFCE fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£2,886,000	£745,000	£3,631,000

North-West region: funded projects

Project A: **Towards an accreditation model for employees acquiring higher level skills in small businesses**
Project B: **Enhancing the transition of students with Advanced GNVQ qualifications from FECs into HE programmes**

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
East Lancashire Lifelong Learning Partnership: Accrington & Rossendale College; Blackburn College; Burnley College; Nelson and Colne College; St Mary's College; East Lancashire Careers Services; Lancashire County Council; Blackburn and Darwen Council; The East Lancashire Training and Enterprise Council	**A** HEFCE	0	Accrington and Rossendale College Tim Atkinson e-mail: tatkinso@accross.ac.uk Tel: 01254 354220
	HEFCE/FEFC	26,000	
	Total (A)	**26,000**	
	B HEFCE	0	
	HEFCE/FEFC	24,000	
	Total (B)	**24,000**	

Aims of the project

(A) The aims of the project are:

- to identify areas of employment where higher level skills are being used with no possibility of accreditation; to analyse the skills involved; to map them against units of existing HE qualifications; and provide means of accreditation
- to provide means for individuals to access a full qualification at HND or degree level
- to provide models of good practice in the development of higher level skills transferable to other industrial sectors
- to enhance collaboration between five East Lancashire FE colleges, the University of Central Lancashire and local training providers.

(B) The aims are:

- to identify barriers to the progression of GNVQ students to HE courses and to enhance the credibility of this route
- to determine new approaches to curriculum delivery and better student support arrangements both at the GNVQ and subsequent degree levels
- to provide models of good practice.

On Track – a support and guidance programme to ensure the retention of students from under-represented groups

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Bolton Institute, Bolton College, Bolton Sixth Form College, Bolton Community Education Service, Bury College, Hopwood Hall College, Rochdale, Wigan & Leigh College, Bolton Institute Student Union, Lifetime Careers	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	264,000 50,000 **314,000**	Bolton Institute Dr Peter Marsh e-mail: p.marsh@bolton.ac.uk Tel: 01204 528851

Aims of the project

The main aims of the project are:

- to improve retention and progression rates of students from disadvantaged groups at the pre-entry and on-programme stage via a structured support and tracking system
- to consolidate current pre-enrolment guidance and on-programme mentoring schemes and embed them across Bolton Institute
- to involve students in mutually supportive activity which promotes inclusion and group identity, especially for students on modular programmes
- to develop a coherent guidance and support programme on financial and welfare benefits available to students
- to improve careers guidance information at the subject level.

Widening participation in Cumbria

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Cumbria College of Art & Design, St. Martins College, University of Central Lancashire, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Carlisle Campus, Barrow Sixth Form College, Carlisle College, Furness College, Kendal College, West Cumbria College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	135,000 50,000 **185,000**	Cumbria College of Art & Design Charles Mitchell e-mail: charlesm@cumbriacad.ac.uk Tel: 01228 400300

Aims of the project

The project aims to:

- encourage participation by raising aspirations and awareness of learning opportunities and by making practical arrangements for the transition of students to HE programmes at partner colleges, working with FECs, targeted schools, community groups and businesses in Cumbria
- promote progression pathways, including the continuing development of arrangements for credit accumulation and transfer between partner HEIs and opportunities for students to take advantage of the facilities and strengths in partner HEIs and FECs.

Lancashire Compact for widening participation

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Edge Hill College of Higher Education; University of Central Lancashire; Lancaster University; St Martin's College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	900,000 75,000 **975,000**	Edge Hill College of Higher Education Rhiannon Evans e-mail: evansr@edgehill.ac.uk Tel: 01695 584268

Aims of the project

Main aims of the project are:

- to work collaboratively to raise awareness and aspirations among potential students, families and staff in schools and colleges, with respect to the diversity of provision within and the routes into higher education institutions within Lancashire
- to extend regional data on participation and retention rates
- to monitor the progress of students entering HE via the Compact route
- to work collaboratively to break attitudinal and practical barriers to widening participation
- to work proactively with schools and colleges in the area to develop and map progression pathways that will give guaranteed progression routes from Key Stage 4 through to FE and HE
- to target areas of high levels of non-participation and work in collaboration to create synergy with other projects in addressing issues of under-achievement
- to disseminate good practice and to implement a programme of staff development for HEI personnel that seeks to raise awareness of barriers to HE participation, and enables changes in institutional practices relating to access for non-traditional entrants
- to develop a web-site as a tool for the dissemination of experience and practice in widening participation across the North-West
- to widen participation among adults by developing enhanced 'second chance' access and progression routes.

To improve progression routes into HE for disadvantaged young people in Merseyside

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Liverpool University, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool Hope, Edge Hill College of HE, Liverpool City of Learning and Merseywise	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	750,000 132,000 **882,000**	Liverpool University Ms Tricia Jenkins e-mail: tjenkins@liv.ac.uk Tel: 0151 794 1314

Aims of the project

The project aims to:

- provide in-depth support for individual disadvantaged young people
- support and empower parents to enable disadvantaged young people to progress to HE
- provide support via the development of curriculum initiatives
- disseminate and implement the good practice learned from widening participation initiatives across Merseyside
- run a year-long campaign promoting HE, targeted at young people in Merseyside
- plan in sustainability

Aim Higher in Cheshire

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Macclesfield College, Cheshire Learning Partnership within the Cheshire Lifelong Learning Partnership: six FE Colleges, Chester College of HE and Manchester Metropolitan University	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 64,000 **64,000**	John Wright e-mail: jwright@macclesfield.ac.uk Tel: 01625 410000

Aims of the project

The project aims to:

- build on the work of the Cheshire Learning Partnership in identifying under-participating groups
- build on the first round widening participation project of Chester College of HE
- develop a programme of motivational and outreach activities to widen participation
- develop flexible and part-time progression routes to improve access
- exchange experience and outcomes, and develop a common approach to quality assurance for activities.

Expansion and enhancement of a foundation studies bridging scheme

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Manchester Metropolitan University, The City Pride FE Principals Group, Greater Manchester Lifelong Learning, CITB Education Unit North West, Greater Manchester Community Training Group, the Princes Trust	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	432,000 90,000 **522,000**	Manchester Metropolitan University Professor Barry Plumb e-mail: B.S.Plumb@mmu.ac.uk Tel: 0161 247 1020

Aims of the project

The project aims to:

- increase the number of students – especially those from groups traditionally under-represented in HE – undertaking programmes within an HE bridging scheme
- address the pre-entry guidance and the 'curriculum fit' of bridging and pre-bridging programmes in order to improve the state of readiness of students embarking on such programmes
- improve the retention of students undertaking the bridging scheme through guidance and mentoring schemes
- increase the numbers of students progressing from the bridging scheme to HE studies
- disseminate best practice and 'lessons learned' within partner institutions and more widely, especially within the Greater Manchester Forum for Widening Participation
- work with Manchester City College and City Pride to widen participation.

Towards the Three As: Raising Awareness, Aspirations and Attainment

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Manchester, local Healthcare Trusts, schools and FE colleges within East Manchester and Wythenshawe's Education Action Zone, EIC Initiative, Warrington Collegiate Institute, providers of adult education within the region	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	405,000 15,000 **420,000**	University of Manchester Dr J Henshaw e-mail: jacqueline.henshaw@man.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 2074

Aims of the project

The project aims to:

- increase work-related skills and motivation through work-based mentoring
- raise awareness, aspirations and attainment levels of young people and of potential adult learners through virtual mentoring schemes, HE Awareness Days, extension of summer schools for 15-year-olds, a student ambassador scheme and community-based courses
- develop support systems for mature students in order to enhance retention
- deliver a one week summer residential FE to HE bridging course
- monitor progression rates and evaluate the project.

A pilot mentoring programme to support FE students previously defined 'at risk'

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Preston College, Adult College (Lancashire), Blackpool & the Fylde College, Blackpool Sixth Form College, Cardinal Newman College, Lancaster & Morecambe College, Myerscough College, Runshaw College and Skelmersdale College, LAWTEC, Lancashire Education Authority, Blackpool Education Authority, CareerLink, Employment Service	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 24,000 **24,000**	Preston College Mike Clegg e-mail: mclegg@prestoncoll.ac.uk

Aims of the project

- To develop an FE/HE mentoring strategy to support and encourage retention of FE learners who were previously defined as 'at risk' and were subject to early intervention support
- To provide continuity of practice with pre-16 early intervention strategies targeted to the needs of under-achieving or 'at risk' young people
- To improve the capacity of participating FE and HE institutions to provide effective mentoring support for disadvantaged, under-represented and under-achieving learners
- To raise aspirations, achievements, and particularly retention and progression of targeted groups
- To identify and disseminate good mentoring practice in supporting targeted learners to and through FE and HE
- To develop collaborative but differentiated approaches to mentoring policy and practice.

Pathways to Progression

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
The Open University in the North West, University of Salford, University of Manchester; UMIST, Manchester Metropolitan University; Bolton Institute	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 100,000 **100,000**	The Open University Jo Wiggans e-mail: j.wiggans@open.ac.uk Tel: 0161 861 9823

Aims of the project

This project builds on the work undertaken as part of the HEFCE-funded Phase 1 work. One of the main aims of the project will be to establish a web-based guidance network to inform and support under-represented groups.

HE Learning Partnerships 1999-2000

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Wigan & Leigh College, the Learning partnership for Wigan, University of Central Lancashire, Salford University, Edge Hill College of HE	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 95,000 **95,000**	Wigan and Leigh College Angela O'Donoghue e-mail: a.odonoghue@ wigan-leigh.ac.uk Tel: 01942 761706

Aims of the project

The project aims to:

- increase participation by the provision of comprehensive accessible higher education via further education and training
- build on existing partnership arrangements through the Schools Liaison Programme with local secondary schools to encourage 14-plus year olds to progress to HE
- raise the profile and awareness of HE with target groups of adults across the borough
- provide a range of advice, guidance, support and curriculum in outreach centres to enable adults with no formal academic qualifications to progress to HE
- develop clear progression routes from foundation to higher education through the existing network of HE and FE partnerships
- target specific under-represented groups and modify curriculum content to reduce barriers to progression
- monitor the progress of these aims.

South-East region: regional priorities

In addition to the national criteria, the Regional Advisory Network (RAN) identified the following regional priorities. It recommended applicants to take on board and cross-refer to the relevant sections of the draft South-East Regional Economic Strategy, to be published by SEEDA in July. Applicants were encouraged to submit collaborative bids where appropriate.

Collecting and sharing information

- A mapping exercise, probably at sub-regional level in the first instance, to show the existing providers and provider networks, and an indication of what these cover.
- Identification of gaps in coverage and an outline of how these might be tackled.
- Mechanisms for collating, disseminating and promoting good practice and areas of experience and expertise.
- Formulating strategies for identifying and measuring outputs.

Combating social exclusion

- Raising participation and retention from disadvantaged groups and non-traditional entrants.
- Pre-entry and post-entry guidance.
- Counselling and support systems.
- Curriculum developments or adaptation.
- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Providing access to higher education provision in both urban and rural areas.
- Dealing with intermittent patterns of coastal deprivation.

Employability and skills

- Links with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Key skills.
- Study in the workplace.
- Links with the University for Industry (UfI) and Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs).

Embedding good practice

- Disseminating and embedding good practice.

Progression routes

- Building links between HEIs and the emerging Lifelong Learning Partnerships.

Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in the South-East region

HEFCE fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£1,122,000	£299,000	£1,421,000

South-East region: funded projects

The APT Project - Access and Participation Together

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Surrey, University of Reading, Royal Holloway University of London, St Mary's University College, Roehampton Institute, University of Kingston, Farnborough College of Technology, North East Surrey College of Technology, Surrey Open College Federation (Thames Region Accrediting Consortium, Open College Network, Chiltern Open College Network), Surrey Training & Enterprise Council, Thames Valley Enterprises, Guildford School of Acting, Wimbledon School of Arts, Surrey Institute of Art & Design	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	197,000 13,500 **210,500**	University of Surrey Dr John Hobrough e-mail: j.hobrough@surrey.ac.uk Tel: 01483 879376

Aims of the project

Following on from the HEFCE-funded phase 1 project running in 1999-2000, this project seeks to embed the pilot outcomes and undertake further developments. The outcomes of the phase 1 project include:

- a comprehensive survey of higher education provision across Surrey, North Hampshire, Berkshire and into South-West London
- development of a widening participation web-site allowing learners direct access to details of educational provision in the region
- the terms of reference for a sub-regional ACCORD
- pilot outreach activities using a 'mobile information unit', student mentors and linking with FE outreach activities.

Phase 2 is designed to initiate and embed the ACCORD, provide appropriate staff development and outreach strategies for progression into HE, and then to develop and provide 'after-care' services appropriate to those who enter HE from under-represented groups.

Wessex Solent Partnership for widening participation

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Wessex Solent Partnership: University College Chichester, King Alfred's College, University of Portsmouth, Southampton Institute, University of Southampton, local FE college representative groups, local school organisations and the Lifelong Learning Partnerships	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	169,000 33,000 **202,000**	University of Southampton Rex Knight e-mail: rk@soton.ac.uk Tel: 01703 592835

Aims of the project

The project plans to widen participation in the region with particular emphasis on: young adult unemployed, ethnic minorities with low participation rates, students with disabilities, adults in isolated rural communities, and residents of inner city areas and outlying estates classified as Areas of Local Deprivation. Among the outcomes of the project will be:

- the running of summer schools for 320 pupils from 24 schools with the participation of 50 access course students
- use of ICT to establish preferred learning styles, supporting the development of basic skills and supporting students with a range of disabilities, thus promoting recruitment and retention.

The project has the full support of the Lifelong Learning Partnerships, local authorities and representative groups for schools and colleges.

Partnerships with Purpose II

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Kent, University of Greenwich, Canterbury Christ Church University College,Kent Institute of Art & Design, The Open University, Lifelong Learning Partnerships (Kent and Medway), Kent Association of Further Education Colleges, Open College Network Kent & Medway	HEFCE	346,578	University of Kent J A Wyatt e-mail: J.A.Wyatt@ukc.ac.uk Tel: 01227 764000
	HEFCE/FEFC	0	
	Total	**346,578**	

Aims of the project

The project plans to build upon the current work of the original PWP in Medway. It will continue the development and embedding of a progression network within the Medway towns, and extend its collaborative work to the Thames Gateway and to the East of Kent. Among its outcomes it cites the development of a curriculum framework that facilitates effective progression between pre-degree Levels 2 and 3, transition between Level 3 and 4 (HE Level 1), and the transfer between local HE curriculum offer (Levels 1 to 4). The curriculum framework development will focus initially upon the establishment of the 'Universities for Medway'. Targeted groups for PWP II will continue to be people living within identified areas of socio-economic deprivation, and people in work without traditional Level 3 qualifications, such as health care workers, learning support assistants, and workers in small engineering companies.

Widening participation by enhancing access

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College, Amersham & Wycombe College, Aylesbury College, East Berkshire College. Associated Partners: Thames Valley Enterprise, Thames Region Accrediting Consortium, Buckinghamshire Lifelong Learning Partnership, Slough Lifelong Learning Partnership, Windsor & Maidenhead Lifelong Learning Partnership, BCC/LEA Department of Continuing Education, Wycombe District Council	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	183,000 38,000 **221,000**	Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College Graeme Coulter e-mail: Graeme.Coulter@bcuc.ac.uk Tel: 01494 603055

Aims of the project

The project plans to:

- develop an Accreditation Programme to identify and recognise students' current knowledge and skills (APL and APEL) and to develop appropriate structures and procedures for access into HE
- implement a Mentoring Programme to engage and motivate under-represented groups (those currently unaware of their own ability and potential, the disabled, disaffected and disadvantaged, women returners and single parents)
- operate a fast track Summer School Programme which will result in the provision of fast-track study programmes for Asian women, ex-offenders, long-term unemployed and the disabled. The aim is to have 345 additional students engaged in higher education programmes by December 2002.

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PLAN: a Portsmouth local action network to secure access for local people to higher education through further education

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Portsmouth, Fareham College, Havant College, Highbury College, Isle of Wight College, Portsmouth College, St Vincents College, South Downs College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 98,300 **98,300**	University of Portsmouth Angela Glasner e-mail: angela.glasner@port.ac.uk Tel: 02392 843404

Aims of the project

The primary aim of the project is to address the problem of poor progression to HE in the Portsmouth area. It will articulate closely with the newly formed regional Lifelong Learning Partnerships. Among the key outcomes proposed by the project are:

- mapping routes to degree level qualifications (including the development of a searchable database of course and module information with web-site links)
- enhanced participation (for example, 'taster' programmes for summer school sessions)
- raising aspirations (schools liaison network and a mentoring programme)
- network building (new subject area forums for action planning, and an integrated staff development programme focused on access and flexible delivery).

Access to design: regional network for widening participation in the creative industries

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
CADISE (Consortium of Art & Design Institutions in the South East) Kent Institute of Art & Design	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	226,422 0 **226,422**	CADISE Bethan O'Neil e-mail: boneil@surrart.ac.uk Tel: 07899 921638 Kent Institute David Buss e-mail: dbuss@kiad.ac.uk Tel: 01622 757286

Aims of the project

The project aims to enhance opportunities from disadvantaged groups to progress to HE courses in design and the creative industries sector. Stage 1 will focus on inter-institutional activity with the establishment of a CADISE/KIAD widening participation forum on short course, summer school, evening and part-time provision. Stage 2 will focus on a sector-specific project relating to 'Access to Design' and a number of sustainable infrastructure proposals to support the non-traditional learner.

Widening participation in higher education by tackling intermittent coastal deprivation

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
University of Brighton, University of Sussex, University College Chichester, Sussex Liaison and Progression Accord (SPLA) Partnership (comprising the three HE institutions, all the further education colleges in East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove, and the majority of secondary schools), and the three Lifelong Learning Partnerships of East Sussex, West Sussex, and Brighton and Hove	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	410,000 0 **410,000**	University of Brighton Elizabeth Maddison e-mail: E.Maddison@Brighton.ac.uk Tel: 01273 642889

Aims of the project

The project aims to combat social exclusion by increasing participation in higher education from areas from five localised areas of coastal deprivation within communities that are relatively prosperous overall. To do this it will:

- identify the extent of and reasons for under-representation
- collect and share information about participation and provision in higher education
- deliver a range of activities to offer improved prospects for achievement at 16 plus and 16-19, thereby providing a more secure platform for entry to and successful completion of higher education.

Improving access to and participation in higher education within the land-based and rural sectors

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Sparsholt College, University of Portsmouth, Hampshire Lifelong Learning Partnership	HEFCE	0	Sparsholt College Mike Ridout e-mail: mridout@sparsholt.ac.uk Tel: 01962 797222
	HEFCE/FEFC	24,500	
	Total	**24,500**	

Aims of the project

One of the aims of the project is to provide retraining and lifelong learning opportunities for those affected and disadvantaged by the rapidly changing nature of the rural and land-based economy. It will offer sub-degree HE opportunities by providing HNC and HND courses which will be accessible through part-time and full-time routes in a range of fields and pathways, and develop elements of HNC courses into 'taster' courses which will enable students to progress to HE studies.

Building part-time routes into Engineering, Physics and Business

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Reading College and School of Art & Design, Oxford Brookes University, Reading Lifelong Learning Partnership, Wokingham Lifelong Learning Partnership	HEFCE	0	Reading College and School of Art & Design Chris Meunier e-mail: meunierc@reading-college.ac.uk Tel: 0118 967 5351
	HEFCE/FEFC	41,700	
	Total	**41,700**	

Aims of the project

This project aims to strengthen and establish the alliance between Oxford Brookes University and Reading College and School of Art & Design. It is also seeking to:

- credit rate a range of HNC and HND programmes to enable smooth progression at appropriate points into degree programmes
- address the reduction in opportunity for students from disadvantaged backgrounds caused by the decline in recent years of employer support for day-release study
- attract a wider range of students into HE courses in Business by creating progression routes for FE students with Hotel & Catering and Therapy Studies qualifications.

Outcomes of the project will include: a clear framework of credit rating to facilitate progression between college and university programmes, higher quality flexible HNC Engineering programmes with a wider range of pathways, and new flexible routes to HNC in other subjects, chosen because of regional and national skills needs.

FE/HE Progression Links Project (PLP)

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Kent Association of FE Corporations (Canterbury College, Hadlow College, Mid Kent College, North West Kent College, South Kent College, Thanet College, West Kent College), Kent Lifelong Learning Partnerships, Medway Lifelong Learning Partnerships	HEFCE	0	Canterbury College Mark Hill e-mail: m.hill@cant-col.ac.uk Tel: 01227 811306
	HEFCE/FEFC	50,000	
	Total	**50,000**	

Aims of the project

This project seeks to build upon the recommendations of the Kent and Medway Widening Participation Plan and the work of the HEI partnership project, Partnerships with Purpose (PwP). Among it aims are:

- to establish in each FEC FE/HE liaison roles through key curriculum posts
- confirm with HEIs the learner groups for local targeting
- inform the process and development of Kent's proposed Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems (CATS)
- enable advice and guidance to students through dedicated access/progression sessional time in FE colleges.

South-West region: regional priorities

The regional priorities for widening participation funding are:

- Reaching out to raise target groups' aspirations for education, training, opportunities for progression, and subsequent employment.
- Supporting learners educationally, financially (that is, by helping them to find the most suitable sources of financial help) and through increased opportunities for mobility, and enhancing their academic potential.
- Developing institutional and employers' capacities to respond.
- Broader consciousness-raising about education, training and opportunities for progression in the wider community (including SMEs).

Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in the South-West region

HEFCE fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£945,000	£252,000	£1,197,000

South-West region: funded projects

Widening participation in further and higher education in the South-West

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Collaborative bid by 12 HEIs and 39 FE Colleges in the South West, Bristol Community Education Service, Cornwall & Devon Careers Service, Learning Partnership West	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	945,000 216,000 **1,161,000**	University of West of England Rob Cuthbert e-mail: rob.cuthbert@uwe.ac.uk Tel: 0117 9656261

Aims of the project

This collaborative bid plans to establish region-wide collaboration involving all HE and FE institutions in the region with other partners, to tackle the priorities set by the HEFCE and FEFC as follows:

- reaching out to raise target groups' aspirations for education, training, opportunities for progression and subsequent employment
- supporting learners and enhancing their academic potential
- developing institutions' and employers' capacities to respond to the needs of non-traditional learners
- raising awareness in the wider community (including SMEs) about education, training and opportunities for progression.

Wiltshire & Swindon Lifelong Learning Partnership

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Chippenham College, Lackham College, New College, Salisbury College, Trowbridge College, Wiltshire & Swindon Lifelong Learning Partnership, Swindon College	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 36,000 **36,000**	Swindon College Mike Hopkins e-mail: mikehopkins@msxchg.swindon-college.ac.uk Tel: 01793 498208

Aims of the project

This project seeks to enhance progression routes from further to higher education and develop a local credit-based framework. It will also develop links into the regional project on progression led by the University of the West of England.

Yorkshire and the Humber region: regional priorities

The regional priorities for widening participation funding are:

- Ensuring progression into accessible HE provision, driven by the needs of the learner and hence flexible in design and delivery.
- Providing accessible and effective guidance to individuals in the targeted communities.
- Developing partnerships with community/voluntary groups to address the social inclusion agenda.
- Linking proposals to the emerging Yorkshire Forward skills strategy.
- Providing region-wide qualitative information, and sharing of best practice, to support the Regional Development Agency.
- Linking proposals to likely regional/national developments of importance to widening participation, such as the University for Industry - including the resources, facilities and structures these are likely to make available.

Total funds allocated to widening participation projects in Yorkshire & the Humber region

HEFCE fund Total for three years	Joint FEFC/HEFCE fund Total one year's funding	Total allocated
£2,157,000	£574,700	£2,731,700

Yorkshire and the Humber region: funded projects

The Yorkshire and Humberside HEI regional partnership

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Yorkshire & Humberside Universities Association (YHUA) providing an overarching project complemented by three sub-regional partnerships: **North Yorkshire & Humberside:** University of Hull, University of Lincolnshire & Humberside, College of Ripon and York St John, North Riding College, University of York, Open University **South Yorkshire:** Bretton Hall College, Sheffield Hallam University, University of Sheffield, Open University **West Yorkshire:** Bradford University, Huddersfield University, Leeds University, Leeds Metropolitan University, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Trinity and All Saints College, Open University	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	2,157,000 0 **2,157,000**	University of Leeds on behalf of YHUA Gill Holt e-mail: g.f.holt@leeds.ac.uk Tel: 0113 233 1586

Aims of the project

Fifteen institutions came together in an equal regional partnership to tackle widening participation in higher education. This partnership was built on three sub-regional partnerships which used HEFCE funding in 1999 to establish a regional strategic framework for WP in HE. The second phase of the funding will be used to implement this sub-regional strategy, and to develop appropriate community-based projects. For example, in North Yorkshire and Humberside, among other work in 1999, the partnership identified progression barriers in both urban areas of multiple deprivation and dispersed rural communities and small towns. The additional funding from 2000-02 will enable the partnership to tackle this low participation through a range of projects, such as community outreach and liaison teams, early outreach to schools in low participation neighbourhoods, outreach to the rurally and seasonally disadvantaged and links with the voluntary sector.

Vocational, access and outreach progression mechanisms from FE to HE

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Leeds Metropolitan University, Leeds Lifelong Learning Partnership, Thomas Danby College of Further Education, Leeds Park Lane College of Further Education, The Open University in Leeds	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 85,000 **85,000**	Leeds Metropolitan University Dr S. T Molloy e-mail: S.Molloy@lmu.ac.uk Tel: 0113 283 5906

Aims of the project

This project comprises three inter-related core projects: vocational course progression, integration of access programmes with Open University and Leeds Metropolitan University Level 1 courses, and extension of the existing Leeds Metropolitan University Integrated Access Programme to areas of high social exclusion. These core projects will be linked via existing supporting work in pre-entry guidance, collaborative staff development on APEL procedures and collaborative curriculum development focused on encouraging throughput from FE in specific areas.

Building Pathways Partnership

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Sheffield Hallam University, Barnsley College, Chesterfield College, Dearne Valley College, Doncaster College, Northern College, North Nottinghamshire College, Rotherham CAT, Rother Valley, Sheffield College, Thomas Rotherham College, Wakefield College	HEFCE	0	Sheffield Hallam University Sally Neocosmos e-mail: s.neocosmos@shu.ac.uk Tel: 0114 225 2051
	HEFCE/FEFC	140,000	
	Total	**140,000**	

Aims of the project

This partnership consists of 11 further education sector colleges, a university and the Open College Network (South Yorkshire and Humber region). It is also supported by and will work collaboratively with Lifelong Learning Partnerships in Sheffield, Rotherham and Wakefield. Some of its objectives in its first year are as follows:

- developing the foundations of a robust and effective partnership
- mapping, articulating and developing curriculum offers across the partnership to ensure transparent progression routes into and through higher education
- developing bridging support to enable progression to HE from NVQ Level 3
- offering CATS accreditation in Open College Network programmes to assist and encourage progression to higher education from under-represented communities.

York Progression Partnership

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
York College, College of Ripon & York St. John, City of York Council, Guidance Enterprises Group, North Yorkshire TEC. Supported by City of York Lifelong Learning Partnership	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 40,000 **40,000**	York College Bob Saynor e-mail: bsaynor@yorkcollege.ac.uk Tel: 01904 770289

Aims of the project

The creation of a 'York Progression Partnership' brings together all providers and support services of learning opportunities within the City of York. The three key operational outcomes for the first year of the project are:

- the establishment of a city-wide comprehensive credit framework encouraging seamless portability of credit along well marketed progression routes
- establishment of a linked city-wide Accreditation of Prior Learning/Achievement framework
- establishment of robust quality assurance mechanisms.

Going On/Staying On

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Bradford & District Lifelong Learning Partnership, Bradford University, University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University, Huddersfield University, Trinity & All Saints College, Sheffield Hallam University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Bradford College with linked schools, Keighley College, Shipley College, Education Business Partnership (Bradford District)	HEFCE HEFCE/FEFC **Total**	0 75,000 **75,000**	Bradford College Geoff Firth e-mail: g.firth@bilk.ac.uk Tel: 01274 753004

Aims of the project

The Going On Project (GOP) provides a structured series of activities designed to raise aspirations among young people who have ability but no family background of entering HE. Selected schools are targeted on the basis of their catchment area. In the GOP, the students enter a four year programme in Year 10 which involves student tutoring and shadowing. By entering the scheme the students are better informed about the options available and are guaranteed an interview with a range of HEIs.

U2 - Increasing successful HE participation in the Humber region

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
The Humber Region FE/HE Consortium: Beverley College, Bishop Burton College, East Yorkshire College, Grimsby College, Hull College, University of Hull, University of Lincolnshire & Humberside, Wilberforce College	HEFCE	0	Hull College Lynn Parker e-mail: lparker@hull-college.ac.uk Tel: 01482 598726
	HEFCE/FEFC	126,610	
	Total	**126,610**	

Aims of the project

Aims of the project include: increasing the number of adults who successfully complete qualifications for HE entry and make a successful transition to HE provision; and increasing the participation and retention of non-traditional students in Level 3/Level 4 provision through effectively targeted advice and guidance. Among the outcomes of the project will be:

- development and delivery of FE and HE 'progression modules' for prospective students, to include on-line experiences in employer and community venues, and delivery at non-traditional times such as summer schools, evenings and lunch-time
- training and development of a team of 'role model' HE students to act as mentors to students in FE.

HE Progress and success: direction for the disadvantaged

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Barnsley College, Sheffield University, Northern College, Barnsley and Doncaster Training & Enterprise Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Lifetime Careers Ltd, Bretton Hall College, Barnsley Business Education Partnership, Barnsley Lifelong Learning Partnership	HEFCE	0	Barnsley College David Hague e-mail: d.hague@barnsley.ac.uk Tel: 01226 216567
	HEFCE/FEFC	35,590	
	Total	**35,590**	

Aims of the project

The main aims of the project are:

- to arrange a series of summer schools
- to establish close links with a range of schools with low progression to higher education
- to secure specialist mentor support for Barnsley College HND students, encouraging progression to degree level study at Sheffield University
- web-site development to provide access to information about local opportunities for progression.

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Widening participation partnerships in Kirklees and Calderdale

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)		Lead institution and contact name
Dewsbury College, Calderdale College, Huddersfield Technical College, Huddersfield New College, Greenhead College, University of Huddersfield, Northern College, Kirklees LEA, Calderdale & Kirklees Careers Service Partnership, Calderdale & Kirklees TEC, West & North Yorkshire Open College Network	HEFCE	0	Dewsbury College Wendy Pawson e-mail: wpawson@dewsbury.ac.uk Tel: 01924 436205
	HEFCE/FEFC	72,500	
	Total	**72,500**	

Aims of the project

The overarching aim of this project is to develop a long-term strategy to build pathways from further to higher education. Some of the more specific aims will be:

- developing a credit framework
- mapping the FE/HE curricula in order to strengthen pathways, and to reduce overlap and repetition
- securing greater progression into HE through work-based learning
- securing the progression into HE from ethnic minority groups by the development of student mentoring schemes.

Northern Ireland: regional priorities

The regional priorities for widening participation funding are:

- **Combating social exclusion:** participation of under-represented groups, including students with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- **HE partnerships and working in the community:** a recognition of the importance of widening participation through the development of links with other HE providers to provide progression from further to higher education and with schools.
- **Employability:** preparing students for employment, transferable skills, careers guidance; informing employers.

The Northern Ireland Universities submitted applications for funding in response to HEFCE 99/33 on widening participation in higher education. Because of the different structural arrangements in Northern Ireland there were no applications to the HEFCE/FEFC joint fund. A total of £750,000 over three years was made available by the Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment (DHFETE).

The bids were referred to the Northern Ireland Higher Education Council (NIHEC) which in turn made recommendations to DHFETE.

Northern Ireland: funded projects

Discovering the Queen's experience: taster programmes and summer schools

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)	Lead institution and contact name
Queen's University of Belfast, secondary schools, colleges, institutes of further and higher Education, community groups	Total 566,500 over three years	Queen's University Stephanie Wilson e-mail: s.n.wilson@qub.ac.uk Tel: 028 9033 5284

Aims of the project

The project aims to introduce higher education to potential students from disadvantaged groups through Summer Schools. Queen's University plans to offer a range of Summer Schools programmes, including certificated learning which will allow the student to enter a degree programme of their choice with other than the normal A-level entrance requirements. It will build on existing summer school activity and allow the university to expand the range of courses and number of available student places.

Outcomes will include developing a successful access strategy for those from lower socio-economic groups; a draft compact scheme documenting admissions, agreements and accreditations for access entrants; and evidence of performance and retention rates of access entrants from lower socio-economic groups.

Step-up at the University of Ulster

Partners in the proposal	Funding (£)	Lead institution and contact name
University of Ulster, Clondermot High School, Oakgrove Integrated College, St Cecilia's College, St Joseph's Secondary School, St Mary's College, St Peter's High School, Templemore Secondary School	Total: 192,791 over three years	University of Ulster Dr D O'Kane e-mail: DP.Okane@ulst.ac.uk Tel: 028 7032 4014

Aims of the project

This project is aimed at providing an opportunity for disadvantaged pupils who have low attainment levels and relatively low expectations, to gain entry to and complete programmes of study at the university. Specific outcomes are expected to be: increased participation in university education by students who previously might not have considered this as an educational option; development of subject-specific and general transferable skills to assist in the transition from school to university; the provision of ongoing support to students in completing their degree level programmes.

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